

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 8, 1973

Dear Dick:

You will recall that in connection with our efforts to overhaul the classification system under Executive Order 11652 we set up a mechanism for responding to requests for declassification. The Order, as you know, is being implemented under the direction of the Inter-agency Classification Review Committee of which CIA is a standing member.

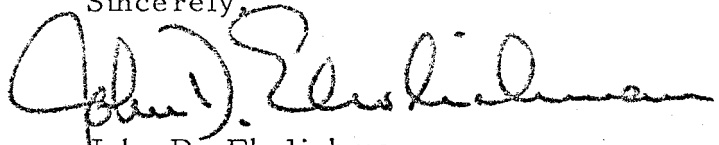
John Eisenhower who chairs the Committee recently wrote to advise me that an appeal had been received under the Executive Order for review of an adverse determination by CIA on an Associated Press request for declassification of Situation Reports and Central Intelligence Bulletins relating to the overthrow of Guatemalan President Arbenz in 1954. Eisenhower has reviewed the papers in question himself and feels there is no reason why they should not be submitted to the full Committee for review. CIA, however, has declined to submit them on the ground that such review would conflict with your statutory duty to protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.

It seems to me that the new Executive Order was clearly intended to apply to the CIA and that it should present its case for continued classification to the full Committee. If there is still disagreement on the matter after the Committee determination, it could be resolved by the submission to the President.

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Accordingly, we would appreciate it if you could arrange to furnish the documents in question to the members of the ICRC for review. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John D. Ehrlichman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being particularly prominent.

John D. Ehrlichman  
Assistant to the President  
for Domestic Affairs

Honorable Richard Helms  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C.

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